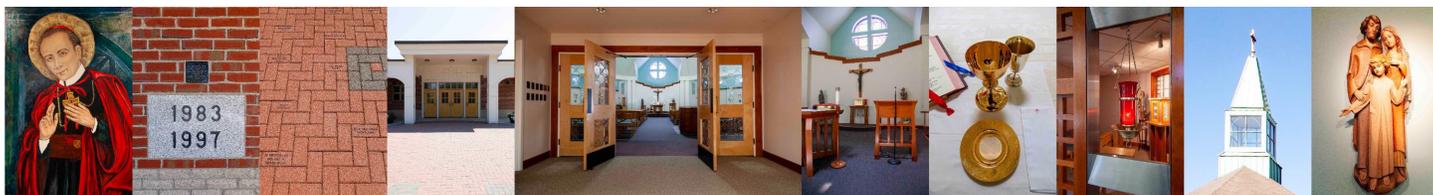


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



33rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
November 13, 2022

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

Deacon Brian Lester
deacon@sjnnh.org

Teri Schmitt
Office Manager
880-4689 x110, office@sjnnh.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Anticipatory) 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday (Labor Day thru Memorial Day) 6:00 PM
Daily (Mon, Wed-Fri) 12:15 PM

CONFESSION

Saturday 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
And before/after daily Mass, or by appointment.

BAPTISM

Parents must attend a Parent Baptism Class before the baptism of their child. The class is offered the first Sunday of each month following the 10:00 AM Mass.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the office at least six months prior to the wedding date. The diocese requires Marriage Prep.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND AND SICK, ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office to request home or hospital visitation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

THE GOOD THIEF

But unless you repent, you too will all perish. —Luke 13:3

The first excerpt below is from an article entitled, "The Good Thief" by Brother Casimir Zvirblis, O.P. (d. 1972), showing how God's mercy is called forth by repentance. The second, by way of example, is from an early Life of St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226).

THIS thief [Dismas, the Good Thief] forgets his atrocious sufferings, and at the approach of the last struggle, with death so near, he shows not the slightest trace of fear. His great crimes do not seem to cause him any apprehension. And why? Because he has been considering nothing else than the all-powerful Redeemer who was hanging on the Cross, he was contemplating the source of eternal life and love. "Have you no fear of God, you who are condemned to the same punishment? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man hath done no evil." This was brave testimony to Jesus amid the many indignities heaped upon Him. In these words there was a sign of repentance and an act of homage paid to truth and innocence. Immediately the kind words he has just spoken kindle in his soul a spark of hope. It is not unusual for this sacred spark to live even in hearts blighted by the most violent passions, so long as there still reigns in them a breath of natural generosity. "Lord," he continued in a suppliant tone that softened the boldness of his prayer, "remember me when Thou shalt come into Thy kingdom." He is content with a remembrance, and criminal that he is, he hopes for it from Him who has prayed for His murderers.

Jesus answered him: "Amen, I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with Me in paradise." Yet a few hours and death closing the eyes of them both, shall hasten them on to that higher happiness which shall recompense the unalterable sanctity of the one and the newly gained sanctity of the other. Thus Jesus on His Cross enters upon His office as Judge. He shows how far the divine mercy will go when called forth by repentance. In a moment, the robber is become a just man, and St John Chrysostom says that this conversion was no less a wonder than the shaking of the rocks. "Pope St Leo observes: "Two thieves were crucified, one on His right hand, and one on His left, to set forth by the very appearance of the gibbet that



separation of all men which shall take place in His hour of judgment. The faith of the believing thief expresses the figure of those to be saved, and the wickedness of the blasphemer gives us the form of those to be condemned.' St Augustine says: 'The very cross, if thou mark it well, was a judgment-seat: for the judge being set in the midst, the one who believed was delivered, the other who mocked Him was condemned.'

Already He has signified what He shall do with the quick and the dead; some He will set on His right hand, others He will set on His left.' According to St Hilary 'Two thieves are set, one upon His right and one upon His left, to show that all mankind is called to the sacrament of His Passion. But because of the cleavage between believers and unbelievers, the multitude is divided into right and left, those on the right being saved by the justification of faith.'

Jesus' enemies purposely crucified Him between two thieves, so as to increase the ignominy of His death; but their intentional insult turned to His honor and glory, and Jesus, while still hanging on the Cross, drew the hearts of men to acknowledge Him as their Lord and King. "This thief," says St Chrysostom, "saw our Savior in torments, but prayed to Him as if He were in glory. He saw Him stretched on His Cross, and prayed to Him as if He were seated on His throne in Heaven. He saw One condemned, and called Him Lord. He saw One crucified, and confessed Him to be a King. O wonderful conversion of a thief!"

AT that time three famous robbers frequented that area, and they committed many evil deeds in the area. One day they came to that place of the brothers and asked Brother Angelo to give them something to eat. But he rebuking them sharply: "You! Robbers and cruel murderers! You aren't ashamed to steal the hard work of others and now you're bold and shameless enough to try to devour the alms sent to the servants of God! You aren't worth the ground to hold you up! You have no respect for people or the God who created you. Go! Mind your own business, and never show yourselves here again!" At this they left, disturbed and deeply offended.

Then St Francis returned from outside with a sack of bread and a small jug of wine that he and his companion had obtained. When Brother Angelo related how he had driven away those men, Francis rebuked him severely, saying that he had acted cruelly: "They would be brought back to God more easily by sweetness than by cruel rebukes. Therefore our teacher Jesus Christ whose Gospel we have promised to observe, says that it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick, and that He did not come to call the just but to call sinners to repentance, and for that reason He often ate with them. Therefore, since you have acted against charity and against the holy Gospel of Christ, I command you under holy obedience: immediately take this sack of bread and jug of wine that I

obtained and go after them. Then on my behalf present all this bread and wine to them. Then kneel down before them and humbly tell them your fault of being cruel. Then ask them on my behalf not to do evil anymore, but to fear God and not to offend their neighbors. And if they do this, I promise to provide for them in their need and constantly give them food and drink. And when you have told them these things, return here humbly." And while Brother Angelo went to carry out the command, St Francis placed himself in prayer and asked God to soften the hearts of those robbers and convert them to penance.

Brother Angelo reached them and presented the bread and wine to them, and did and said what St Francis had commanded him. And, as it pleased God, as those robbers were eating the alms of St Francis, they began to say together: "Woe to us, miserable wretches! We can expect the hard pains of hell, and we go on not only robbing our neighbors and beating and wounding them, but we even kill them. Yet we have no remorse of conscience nor fear of God over so many evil deeds and such horrible things as we do. And here comes this holy brother to us, who has very humbly told us his fault for saying a few words which he said to us rightly because of our wickedness, and moreover, he has brought us bread and wine and the generous promise of the holy father. These really are holy brothers of God who deserve the paradise of God, and we are sons of eternal perdition, who deserve the pains of hell." As one of them was saying these and similar words the other two said: "What you're saying is really true, but what do we have to do?" The first one said: "Let's go to Francis and if he gives us hope that we can turn from our sins to the mercy of God, we'll do what he commands us, and we can free our souls from the pains of hell."

This suggestion pleased the others, and so all three agreed and went quickly to St Francis and said to him: "Father, if you have any hope that God will receive us into His mercy, we're prepared to do what you tell us and to do penance with you." Then St Francis, receiving them charitably and kindly, encouraging them with many examples and assuring them of the mercy of God, promised them as certain that he would obtain this from God for them, showing them that the mercy of God is infinite: "And if we had infinite sins, the divine mercy is still greater than our sins, according to the Gospel; and the Apostle Saint Paul said, 'The blessed Christ came into this world to redeem sinners (1 Tm 1:15).'" Through these words and similar teachings, those three robbers renounced the demon and his works and St Francis received them into the Order, and they began to do great penance.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Nov 13, SUNDAY** — 33rd Week of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration
- Nov 14, MONDAY**
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
- Nov 15, TUESDAY**
7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting
- Nov 16, WEDNESDAY**
9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
10:30 AM | "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother"
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother"
- Nov 17, THURSDAY** — St Elizabeth of Hungary
10:00 AM | Women's Bible Study
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
- Nov 18, FRIDAY**
10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ Adoration
- Nov 19, SATURDAY**
8:30 AM | Men's Group
9:00 AM | Divine Mercy Cenacle (1st/3rd Sat)
9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)
4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)
5:30 PM | Anticipatory Sunday Mass

LAST WEEK

6 Oct '22, 31st Sunday Ordinary Time: \$4,167.00
Online Donations (Oct): \$3,772.00
THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

- Nov 12 (Sat), 5:30 PM Danielle Bonner (req. by Vovo & Papa)
Nov 13 (Sun), 8:00 AM Phil Straight (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Nov 13, 10:00 AM Dick Blais (req. by family)
Nov 13, 6:00 PM Rhonda Evans (req. by family)
Nov 17 (Thu), 12:15 PM John Morris (req. by Jackie Johnston)
Nov 19 (Sat), 5:30 PM Deceased clergy of the diocese
Nov 20 (Sun), 8:00 AM Jean Gagne (req. by Linda Ray)
Nov 20, 10:00 AM Jimmy Burnett & Archie Hughes (req. by Sheila & Jerry Burnett)
Nov 20, 6:00 PM Holy Souls

The Code of Canon Law confirms the practice of offering Mass(es) for particular intentions is ancient: "The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works" (945 §2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THURSDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

During the season of ADVENT, the Thursday Morning Women's Group will be reading and discussing the Advent devotional, "Peace Has a Name" by Blessed is She. The group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 AM (Dec 1, 8, 15, and 22). We welcome all women in the parish to join us. The devotional can be purchased at blessedissh.net. Both a paperback and an electronic copy are available. TO REGISTER OR FOR ANY QUESTIONS, please contact Claire Bryson at cbryson@sjnnh.org.



SEEKING OUR SAVIOR

Commit to making this ADVENT a meaningful one for your whole family, and get started by attending "SEEKING OUR SAVIOR" on Sunday, Nov 27 following the 10:00 AM Mass. All families are invited to this special program. *We'll begin with bagels, donuts, coffee, and juice.* After breakfast, the kids will begin their TREASURE HUNT learning about some of the stories in scripture that get us ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

ACTIVITIES will be appropriate for children ages preschool (with help) through fifth grade. Older kids are encouraged to help out with stations or just join us to socialize. (This is a FAMILY EVENT, not a drop-off activity. Please plan to stay with your children!) A free-will donation is welcome, but not necessary. An RSVP is very much appreciated to assist with budget and planning. Please contact Claire Bryson (cbryson@sjnnh.org) with the number in your group.



MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE MOTHER OF GOD

Offered twice each Wednesday: 10:30 AM and again at 7:00 PM. "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Mother of God" is a video-based eight week series hosted by Cheri Andersen. For more information on this study see <ASCENSIONPRESS.COM> or contact Cheri at: candersen@sjnnh.org.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

The SEASONAL CHOIR, in preparation for Christmas Eve Mass, meets every Tuesday 7:00-8:45 PM until Christmas.

The CHILDREN'S CHOIR (all children from Kindergarten through 6th Grade) will meet Sunday mornings starting December 4, 9:00-9:45 AM.

In addition, Carol Yetto, our Music Director is looking for new cantors/accompanists to join the SJN music ministry.

DAY AWAY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

St John Neumann DAY AWAY resumed its regular indoor program on Thursday, 20 October 2022, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We are seeking caring people to join our ALL-VOLUNTEER staff, who provide a safe, loving and stimulating environment for program participants who are living with the early stages of dementia. We offer a wide variety of roles to choose, including:

- 1:1 Participant Companion VOLUNTEERS: [Morning Team: 8:30 AM-12:30 PM] or [Afternoon Team: 11:30 AM-3:15 PM]
- Craft Assistant: [9:45-11:15 AM]
- Lunch Assistants: [11:00 AM-1:00 PM]

The best volunteers are friendly listeners, who enjoy being with the elderly and learning about all that's meaningful in their lives. If you wish to learn more about the VOLUNTEER roles and orientation training, please contact:

Kathy Hopkins, RN, M.Ed
Director
E-mail: dayaway@sjnnh.org

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To add someone to the prayer line, please contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, tschmitt@sjnnh.org. Please pray for:

Please pray for: Tim, Sam, Max, Jess, Rebecca, Daphne, Lynne, Jerry, Barbera, Elain's family, Heather & Brandon, Olive, Liz, Diane & Jean, Jack & family & friends, Greta, Judy, Marianne & Rick, Milly, Joe, Lisa, Bill Mark, Shelley, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

ONLINE *giving*

St John Neumann Parish offers ONLINE GIVING for families to easily give one-time as well as recurring donations. You can make a secure donation via Electronic Check or Debit/Credit Card by visiting the parish website <SJNNH.ORG> and scrolling to the bottom of the homepage and clicking on <ONLINE-DOANATION>.

<https://sjnnh.org/online-donation>

CAMPS BERNADETTE & FATIMA
CATHOLIC CAMPS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

New camp families can register for our Summer 2023 season beginning November 7th. Secure your space and spread payments over several months. New Hampshire Catholic School students and registered New Hampshire parishioners receive 15% off.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Manchester is currently hiring for the following positions to assist the Bishop of Manchester in serving the parishes, schools and institutions of the Catholic Church in New Hampshire. Among them:

- Executive Assistant for Development and Communications
- Executive Assistant to the Judicial Vicar
- Executive Assistant – Bishop's Office
- Executive Assistant to the Finance Officer and Secretary for Temporalities
- Director of Campus Ministry (Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH)

For more information, see: <www.catholicnh.org/about/stay-informed/bulletin>

SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON

Children (K-5) and Family Ministry
cbryson@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x114

CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry
candersen@sjnnh.org
(603) 880-4689 x111

CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry
cyetto3358@gmail

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry
outreach@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x116

DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)
dayaway@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689

PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)
parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight
kofc@sjnnh.org